

have been had the Senate passed this legislation then?

I did not have the opportunity to serve alongside Senator Wellstone, but I know from my colleagues who did, that there was no better advocate, no better organizer, who understood the power of coalitions, who understood the power of taking an issue to the Senate floor and demanding action. I look forward to working with my colleagues, educating others about this issue, and continuing the work he started to defend farmers, workers, and consumers from the harms being posed by corporate concentration.

This legislation has broad support, with endorsements from the following organizations:

ActionAid USA, Alabama Contract Poultry Growers Association, Alliance for Democracy, American Agriculture Movement, American Grassfed Association, Animal Wellness Action, Appetite for Change (MN), Beyond Pesticides, California Dairy Campaign, California Farmers Union, Campaign for Contract Agriculture Reform, Campaign for Family Farms and the Environment, Cattle Producers of Louisiana, Center for Food Safety, Community Farm Alliance (KY), Contract Poultry Growers Association of the Virginias, The Cornucopia Institute, Crawford Stewardship Project (WI), Dakota Rural Action of SD, Dallas Farmers Market Friends, Family Farm Action.

Family Farm Defenders (WI), Farm Aid, Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance, Farmworker Association of Florida, Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund, Food & Water Watch, Food Chain Workers Alliance, Food for Maine's Future, Food Policy Council of San Antonio, Friends of the Earth U.S., Government Accountability Project, GROW North Texas, HEAL Food Alliance, Idaho Organization of Resource Councils, Illinois Farmers Union, Illinois Stewardship Alliance, Independent Cattlemen of Wyoming, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement, Iowa Farmers Union.

Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future (MD), Kansas Farmers Union, Land Stewardship Project (MN), Michigan Farmers Union, Minnesota Farmers Union, Missouri Farmers Union, Missouri Rural Crisis Center, National Family Farm Coalition, National Farmers Organization, National Farmers Union, National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association, National Women Involved in Farm Economics, Nebraska Farmers Union, North Dakota Farmers Union, Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance, Northeast Organic Farming Assoc.—NY, Northeast Organic Farming Assoc.—VT, Northern Plains Resource Council (MT), Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance (MA), Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association.

Oklahoma Independent Stockgrowers Association, Oklahoma Stewardship Council, Organic Farmers' Agency for Relationship Marketing (OFARM), Organic Seed Alliance, Organic Seed Growers & Trade Association (OSGATA), Organization for Competitive Markets, PCC Community Markets (WA), Pennsylvania Farmers Union, Powder River Basin Resource Council (WY), R-CALF United Stockgrowers of America, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, Rural Advancement Foundation International—USA (RAFI-USA), Rural Coalition/Coalición Rural, Rural Vermont, Slow Food Dallas-Ft. Worth, South Dakota Farmers Union, Southern Colorado Livestock Association, State of Missouri National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Western Colorado Alliance, Wisconsin Farmers Union.

Thank you, Madam President.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 620—CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF INVENTORS ON THE MILESTONE OF ACHIEVING 200 MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

Mr. NELSON (for himself and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 620

Whereas the systematic application of organized knowledge and information can generate technology and produce creative solutions to existing problems;

Whereas innovation, based on new inventions and technologies, has proven to be a key factor in the industrial and economic development of the world;

Whereas the majority of our Nation's basic research is done at United States colleges and universities;

Whereas the National Academy of Inventors was founded at the University of South Florida in 2010;

Whereas the National Academy of Inventors serves a valuable role in the translation of science and technology within the university, college, government, and nonprofit research institute community, and for the benefit of society;

Whereas the National Academy of Inventors enhances the visibility of university, college, government, and nonprofit research institute technology and academic innovation;

Whereas the National Academy of Inventors educates and mentors innovative students;

Whereas the National Academy of Inventors encourages the commercialization of research;

Whereas the National Academy of Inventors recognizes and encourages inventors who have patents issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office;

Whereas the National Academy of Inventors includes thousands of researchers, amplifying their work into practical applications; and

Whereas the National Academy of Inventors has achieved the significant milestone of 200 member institutions across the Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of inventions, patents, and copyrights as part of maintaining United States leadership in the world and a competitive global economy;

(2) expresses support for academic technological developments that promote entrepreneurship and for academic innovations in local communities;

(3) supports the mission of the National Academy of Inventors to recognize and encourage inventors with patents issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, enhance the visibility of academic technology and innovation, encourage the disclosure of intellectual property, educate and mentor innovative students, and translate the inventions of its members to benefit society;

(4) acknowledges the National Academy of Inventors for its role in elevating the contributions of academic inventors across all disciplines; and

(5) congratulates the National Academy of Inventors for its rapid expansion to include 200 member institutions.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I have a request for one committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEANS, ATMOSPHERE, FISHERIES, AND COAST GUARD

The Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, August 28, 2018, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Harmful Algal Blooms: The Impact on Our Nation's Waters."

REMEMBERING JOHN MCCAIN

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to add my voice to many around the world who remember our dear friend and our colleague John McCain.

John McCain was a man of the highest character, courage, and credibility, known for his stubborn courage and his heroic patriotism. He leaves a legacy of unquestioned devotion and love for his country and his family.

When I first came to the Senate, John was very welcoming. He knew I had been an orthopedic surgeon, and he told me I really ought to take a look at his x rays. Of course, the x rays showed the many fractures which were the result of being shot down over Hanoi and the injuries that resulted from the crash and the subsequent beatings as a prisoner of war. It was out of pure generosity on his part that we became friends and traveling companions.

John took great pride in this institution and in knowing that none of us in this body of 100—left or right, Republican or Democrat, conservative or liberal—none of us agreed with him 100 percent of the time. But every one of us respected him and the strength of his convictions. I always have.

Probably no one knows the first person to give him the nickname "Maverick," but he certainly lived up to it. For John, it wasn't about playing a character on television. For him, there was no switching between a public and a private persona; he was the same when the cameras were off as when they were on.

His voice would thunder on the Senate floor when he was stirred to outrage, with incredible force and conviction, and so he came to another affectionate name—"Hurricane McCain."

His humor was legendary. He used his biting humor like a surface-to-air missile.

We all know his incredible biography—the courage he showed as a naval officer and as a prisoner of war in Vietnam. It was a story that inspired millions of people around the world. I could see it when we traveled the world together. We would visit American troops overseas, and it was incredible to see the respect he commanded no matter where he went.

Mr. President, you served time in the military. You have been deployed. You know what it is like to be there and when someone from home comes to thank you and support you and make sure you have everything you need. Our men and women in uniform looked at him in awe, and they hung on his every word. Foreign leaders did the same. John really was a reassuring figure around the world.

My first trip with John was Thanksgiving 2007. It was before he was the nominee for President. He was actually trailing significantly in the polls. We went to Iraq during the surge. We spent the day in Baghdad and in other locations, and then in the dark of night, we flew out into the Anbar Province, where his son, a marine grunt, was serving.

We had Thanksgiving dinner with a number of the soldiers. When John got to see his son, he went to hug him, to lift his arms, but because of the orthopedic injuries he had sustained, until the end of his life, he was unable to really lift his arms due to the fractures. He was up on his toes trying to hug his son in the Anbar Province of Iraq. I had a chance to have dinner with six Wyoming soldiers that evening. They had only one request of me: Could I introduce them to Senator McCain?

Our final trip was over Memorial Day this past year, 2017. It was to Vietnam. We went to the lake where he had been shot down. It was a bipartisan group. Senator COONS from Delaware was along. We went to the Hanoi prison where he spent 5½ years. We saw the cell. We also went to the Presidential Palace. No matter where we went, he was met with a hero's welcome. I don't know how many people could have sustained and survived 5½ years in that prison with the beatings. It took a man of incredible courage and character, and he gained credibility, as well as a certainty for his own life.

We also went to Cam Ranh Bay during that trip to Vietnam. Many Vietnam war veterans have been through that area. They brought in the USS *John McCain*, the ship named after his father and his grandfather. While there, we had a luncheon on the deck of the ship, and it was called McCain Field. He was greeted warmly by everyone, and he greeted them just as warmly.

Every Senator who ever traveled with Senator McCain shared a common experience; it was being approached by someone on the street or in a restaurant and being asked: Are you with Senator McCain? Of course we would

say yes. Then they would hand us a cell phone and say: Could you please take a picture of me with Senator McCain. Of course we always said yes. You could see the reverence and respect each of these individuals had for Senator McCain.

People also respected his incredible legacy of service, his strength as one of the fiercest legislators in our history. It is fitting that just a few weeks ago, Congress paid tribute to him by passing the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 because we all know that caring for the military was an abiding concern in his career. He wanted to make sure that the men and women in uniform were treated fairly by the government, that they were respected, and that they were honored for their service.

We get used to using the language of combat around here in all sorts of other areas where it doesn't really belong. We talk about fierce political battles. We talk about hard-fought election campaigns. But as someone who knew what real battles looked like, John had a realistic perspective on the political kind of battle. He took them seriously, and he never engaged in a fight where he didn't believe that he was on the side of right.

He never tired of ridiculing what he saw as wasteful government spending.

Every soldier, every sailor, every airman knows that none of us are indispensable. We serve our mission, and if we fall, another will step up to take our place. John understood that truth also about public service.

I think John would also understand the sincerity of the grief that the Members of this Senate are feeling today.

I remember vividly the last time I saw John McCain. I went to visit him and his wife Cindy at the ranch in Sedona. I will tell you, John and Cindy have been so kind to my wife Bobbi when we have visited the ranch in the past. I remember John taking my wife Bobbi on a tour of the many historic trees on the ranch. John has also been so very kind to my daughter Emma on her visits in Washington and some of her travels with me.

Let me assure you about Cindy McCain. Cindy is also an American of great strength and great courage. When I was there, we sat together and we talked about the Senate, about his beloved Arizona, about the past and actually about the future as well, and about the places around the world we had visited together.

Senator McCain was a great lover and student of history. We talked of Teddy Roosevelt's "Man in the Arena" speech. It was one that he knew quite well, he knew by heart.

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes up short again and again . . . who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who

spends his life in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement . . . and who . . . if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

John McCain knew both. He knew victory, and he knew defeat. John McCain was the man in the arena.

Mostly, John and I sat and enjoyed the view of the river, the trees, and the red rocks. I know that view was one of his great joys, the peace and serenity of a hard landscape shaped by years of wear and weather. Think about that—the serenity of a hard landscape shaped by years of wear and weather. People will see all sorts of symbolism in that hard landscape shaped by years of wear and weather, but if John had heard me say that, he would have said: Whiskey Tango Foxtrot—get to the point. So I will.

John McCain was the conscience of the Senate. He served the American people and the Senate on his own terms. He left us on his own terms as well. We grieve him today because, for us, it just was not enough time. That is the thing about our heroes—we start to believe they will live on forever, but of course they do not.

Ronald Reagan's final letter to the American people said this:

When the Lord calls me home, whenever that may be, I will leave with the greatest love for this country of ours and eternal optimism for its future.

John McCain has left this world, I can assure you, with the greatest love for this country of ours and eternal optimism for the future.

Rest in peace, my friend John McCain. Rest in peace.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. RUBIO). The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, Senator McCain may have represented the people of Arizona, but in doing so, he changed the world.

His family legacy and leadership are, actually, partly rooted in the Pacific. He met his wife, Cindy, in Honolulu, and generations of McCains have left their mark on the region as his grandfather served in the Pacific theater as an admiral in World War II, as his father commanded the Armed Forces in the Pacific during the Vietnam war, and as John S. McCain III became the most famous POW of the Vietnam war. His relationship with the region began with those conflicts—with pain and with loss—but he never let that beginning define his views of the Asia-Pacific.

As a Senator, he called for the United States to transform the peace we made with Vietnam into a partnership. It is thanks, in part, to him that the United States now works closely with Vietnam on everything from economic development to counterterrorism, and the people of Vietnam know it. The monument that marks where he was captured as a naval pilot in Vietnam has turned into a shrine this week, with people leaving flowers in memory

of the man who helped to normalize relations between our two nations. This is just one of the ways in which Senator McCain shaped the Pacific.

Just a few years ago, he designed the Southeast Asia Maritime Security Initiative in order to increase stability and to help professionalize militaries in the region, including the military of Vietnam. He was a strong advocate for freedom of navigation in the region and for human rights. He worked with Senator CARDIN to introduce a bill to punish military officials in Burma for the part that they had played in waging genocide against the Rohingya—a bill that, I hope, the Senate will pass soon. He was an early voice that warned about North Korea's nuclear program, and as a longtime member and chairman of the Armed Services Committee, he always stood up for our men and women in uniform.

A few years ago, on the 70th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, my predecessor, Daniel K. Inouye, planned to give a floor speech to remember the 2,400 Americans who died that day. Senator Inouye's staff made it known that he would mark the anniversary on the Senate floor. He gave that speech to a Chamber that was not full, but John McCain was there. He was there for Senator Inouye just as he was there, time after time, for our military and for our country. He was earnest and solemn when it came to fulfilling his oath to the Constitution, but he was also the embodiment of taking your job seriously, not yourself.

One tribute from a former staff member recalled how Senator McCain led a codel to Estonia, where he joined Senate colleague Hillary Clinton and enjoyed several rounds of vodka shots before having decided to take a midnight stroll around town. He also remembered the Senator's holding a press conference in a geothermal pool in Iceland—in his bathing suit and all.

Early on in my time in the U.S. Senate, I would pick up the phone and call my dad to tell him whenever I had had a substantive conversation with Senator McCain, because he was that much of a giant, and now he is gone. We all need people in our lives who ask us to do more, who remind us that we are capable of doing more and of doing better. The world needs heroes, and we have lost one in the death of Senator McCain.

He once challenged a leader in his party to "set the example for what our country can and should represent." That was also his challenge to the Senate. He demanded more of the Senate and more from us. It is for that, especially, he will be missed in this Chamber. Who will hold us accountable when we fall into a destructive pattern? When he lectured us—and he did lecture us—we took it to heart. He was true north for the U.S. Senate. He cared deeply about relationships between Members of both parties. He cared about legislating and about finding a way to govern.

While he is gone, we do not need to forget Senator McCain's lessons and lectures. He is an example for us to follow, and that is as true today as it was in any of his 32 years of service to the Senate. We will miss him in this Chamber, where he cast a long shadow with moral clarity whenever he spoke.

This week, our hearts are with his mother, Roberta, with his wife, Cindy, with his children and his grandchildren, and with all of those who loved him. May his memory be a blessing.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I join my colleagues today in tribute to our colleague, Senator John McCain of Arizona.

We look for heroes in this world. It seems to me we are always looking in the wrong places. We look at baseball diamonds and basketball courts and amphitheaters and stadiums where performers sing, but we fail to look in the right places. Sometimes we are with heroes, and we don't always recognize it at the moment. Yet there is no American I know who is more deserving of the title "hero" than John McCain. Those who serve us in the military are entitled to that honorific, and those who serve in the military and serve others in the military—those who serve our veterans—are heroes too. Senator McCain lived a life in which heroics were a part of every day.

I first met John McCain in 1996, in Hays, KS, my hometown. The habit was that Senator Bob Dole, then a candidate for President of the United States, would fly to the airport in Hays, near his hometown of Russell. This time he had a guest with him, John McCain, who was the campaign chairman on his Presidential campaign. I watched the two of them interact, and it was really the first time I had had the opportunity to see a Senator other than, perhaps, my own two from Kansas.

Senator Dole had the greatest regard for Senator McCain. Senator Dole wore the POW bracelet. He never knew John McCain when he was a POW, but by happenstance, he chose to wear a bracelet in honor of and in respect and concern for a POW in Vietnam. John McCain learned on the Senate floor that Bob Dole wore his throughout much of his captivity. I respect and honor Senator Dole, and I saw that day the respect and honor he had for a fellow Senator, a fellow serviceman, a fellow veteran. Both Senator Dole's and Senator McCain's lives were dramatically affected by their service to our Nation.

Quite frankly, when I arrived at the U.S. Senate, I was intimidated by Senator McCain. He was vitriolic, and he

had the habit of exploding at a moment's notice. Something could set him off. Something he cared passionately about could cause him to react. So, in my early days as a new U.S. Senator, I didn't seek John McCain's companionship. That was a mistake on my part because, despite his prickly nature, knowing John McCain has become one of the most valuable experiences I have had in the Senate.

We began working together on one of those issues that John McCain and no one else in the U.S. Senate could have had the stature to have dealt with—certainly, our military men and women in the defense of our Nation. We bonded in our efforts to see that the veterans of our Nation received the care that they deserved, that they received their benefits from the Veterans Health Administration that they were entitled to and that they had earned through their service to our Nation. That work—a McCain-Moran bill—became a significant part of the VA MISSION Act.

I learned in that experience the dedication that Senator McCain had to those who served—to have made sure that the mistakes that had been made at the Department of Veterans Affairs, which may have cost veterans their lives, never happened again. Initially, that resulted in the Veterans Choice Act, and in its just recently being passed by the House, passed by the Senate, and in having been signed by the President, the legislation that we named in honor of Senator John McCain has resulted in the VA MISSION Act, which replaces and improves the Choice Act.

In that experience of working with Senator McCain on behalf of America's veterans, I also got acquainted with Senator McCain's staff. I think it is probably true that we can learn a lot about our colleagues by the people they surround themselves with, in the way that a Senator treats his or her staff members and, perhaps, even more importantly, in the way that those individuals who work for a U.S. Senator treat their boss. What I saw from those who worked for Senator McCain was abiding respect, love, care, and compassion for U.S. Senator John McCain. It told me a lot about his staff, but it told me even more about Senator McCain's person and character.

In my time in working in the Senate with John McCain, I also discovered his abiding love for the people of Arizona. Senator McCain was a national figure and could be only a national figure if he desired. Yet he had the stature to be not only a person who was known in the State he represented and in the Nation but around the world. While Senator McCain represented the United States well, here in the U.S. Senate and in countries around the globe, you could tell that Senator McCain cared about and loved the people he represented at home. He respected them. He recognized that they were the ones who gave him the opportunity to perform on a national stage. He never forgot Arizonans.

I appreciate the way that he and his junior colleague from Arizona, Senator FLAKE, worked together on behalf of the citizens of his State. So, while it would have been easy for John to have played only the national figure, he never forgot from where he came.

While many of my comments today have paid my respect to Senator McCain for his service to the U.S. Senate, it is his service in the military, in the Navy, that is most compelling to me. I have known this story throughout my life—and it has been reported and repeated here on the Senate floor—but I do not know a person who, as a prisoner of war and who was given the opportunity to be released and to return home to family and loved ones, would say no. I do not know a person other than John McCain who would say: No, it is not my turn. No, there are others who are prisoners of war who are more deserving and who are, in fact, on the list ahead of me to be released.

What an honor to know a person who has put others so much ahead of himself, to know someone who, because of his love of country and love of those who served and his sense of responsibility and obligation to those he served with and who were prisoners of war with him, had the character, the values to say: No, it is not my turn.

I wish I knew people; I wish I were one of them.

So, today, I, certainly, honor Senator McCain for his status and service as a Senator. Yet I admire and respect him for his service to the Nation, his service in the Navy, and his care and compassion for those with whom he served.

John McCain led a full and meaningful life. He instructed us numerous times about our behavior here in the U.S. Senate. He asked us, as Americans, to behave differently. He asked our country to come together.

We desperately need the opportunity for Americans to see what they are seeing on the Senate floor this week, where both Republicans and Democrats are honoring the life and service of John McCain. We need to answer his call. We need to honor his request to make certain that the work we perform is done for all Americans.

John McCain was a Republican, but much more so, he was an American. He reminds me of what I see on the monuments and memorials at the National Mall when I make my trek up to the Lincoln Memorial and pass the World War II, the Vietnam war, and the Korean war memorials. No one memorialized there fought, died, sacrificed, and served for Republicans or for Democrats. John McCain and those we memorialize on the National Mall recognized a higher calling.

If we could do something that would alter our behavior in respect to John McCain, what a difference we might make in the country, and if Americans can use this moment to pull together, our country will be better.

John McCain led a full and meaningful life. I admired him, I respected him, and I loved him.

Senator McCain, thank you for your service to our Nation. It is a grateful Nation.

The Navy hymn says: “Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arms hath bound the restless wave.”

May John McCain rest in peace.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today in great sadness to address the passing of Senator John McCain, which marks a deep loss for this country, for his State of Arizona, and, above all, for his family and friends.

John McCain was an honorable public servant who sacrificed greatly to serve his country in uniform, and as a lawmaker, he proudly represented the people of Arizona.

I will always remember the bipartisan luncheon that we had when Senator McCain recounted his experiences as a prisoner of war in Vietnam. There wasn't a dry eye in our caucus.

In my visit to Vietnam, I had a chance to visit the Hanoi Hilton, and I saw firsthand the place where John McCain acted so bravely. He was truly an American hero.

I would like to express my deepest sympathies and condolences at this difficult time to Cindy, their children, and their family.

In his final letter to Americans, Senator McCain reminded us:

We are citizens of the world's greatest republic, a nation of ideals, not blood and soil. We are blessed and are a blessing to humanity when we uphold and advance those ideals at home and in the world.

For nearly a dozen years in the Senate, I have watched my friend Senator McCain live and act by those ideals on behalf of the American people and on behalf of our global community. John was my enduring partner in standing up for universal rights and advancing core American values. John always expressed his views with passion but respected civility. He represented the best of the Senate, working across party lines to get issues resolved.

The Senate has lost a great patriot and a role model for Senators. The Nation has lost a strong, effective leader for American values. Arizona has lost a Senator who loved the State and the people he represented. I, along with many Members—all the Members of this Chamber—have lost a friend.

Today John's faith in American ideals endures with the Sergei and Global Magnitsky acts. With these two laws, the United States stands in solidarity with Sergei Magnitsky from Russia, David Kato from Uganda, Berta Caceres from Honduras, and the many unsung and unnamed people around the world who have suffered human rights abuses for uncovering corruption and fighting for freedom, equal justice, and dignity.

It was John who insisted we ensure that corrupt leaders were held account-

able for their crimes. He truly believed that public officials have a responsibility to serve and protect their citizenry from harm, and he had a particular disdain for officials who instead chose to exploit their citizens for personal enrichment.

Anyone who knew John knows of his disdain for one of the most corrupt leaders of our time, Vladimir Putin. It was the Putin regime's ruthless torture and murder of Sergei Magnitsky, after Sergei exposed their corruption, as well as the regime's repeated attacks on the Russian people, that inspired Senator McCain and me to work together on the Magnitsky law. I thank Senator McCain for giving me that opportunity, for giving me the strength to develop a strategy where we could, in fact, enact not only the original Magnitsky statute but the Global Magnitsky statute, which truly provided the U.S. leadership globally. Many other countries have followed our leadership.

After Vladimir Putin attacked our 2016 elections, Senator McCain worked with me and others to ensure a new, tough sanctions regime against Mr. Putin and his oligarchs for their insidious attacks on our democracy. Senator McCain fought to ensure that our efforts to hold Russia accountable for these actions made it into law. Just last month, he joined a bipartisan group of Senators again toward the same goal, given Mr. Putin's persistent attacks on our democratic system.

Senator McCain and I worked alongside one another to address the genocide against the Rohingya community in Rakhine, Burma, orchestrated by the Burmese military. Last Saturday, August 25, marked 1 year since the outbreak of violence in western Rakhine State, which has resulted in the mass exodus of over 700,000 Rohingya to neighboring Bangladesh. In response to this violence and crimes against humanity perpetrated against the Rohingya community, Senator McCain and I introduced the Burma Human Rights and Freedom Act.

Senator McCain would stand up for people anywhere in the world who were victimized by human rights violations.

Russian dissident Vladimir Kara-Murza wrote yesterday that John was “an idealist. . . . He believed in his principles and was prepared to stand on them—regardless of party, convenience, or political advantage.”

Mr. Kara-Murza has been poisoned twice in Russia as a result of his standing up against Mr. Putin.

I remember John doing just that during our Foreign Relations Committee 2013 debate on whether we should arm the rebels in Syria. He passionately argued that we should do more to support them against Bashar Assad's “butchery.”

In 2016, as the Assad regime mercilessly pummeled rebels in Aleppo, McCain said: “The name of Aleppo will echo through history . . . as a testament to our moral failure and everlasting shame.” Senator McCain called

it the way he saw it. He called out what was happening.

John also stood for his ideals as a leader on comprehensive immigration reform. I remember first coming to the Senate in 2007 and working on comprehensive immigration reform with Senator McCain, Senator Kennedy, and President Bush. That legislation ultimately did not pass, but it showed me that Senator McCain was a serious legislator who was willing to work across the aisle to get things done.

Senator Kennedy died in 2009 of the same form of brain cancer that Senator McCain succumbed to this past weekend. They both died on August 25.

In 2013, Senator McCain was part of the Gang of 8, along with Senator SCHUMER—the bipartisan group of Senators who wrote a 2013 measure to overhaul the country's immigration system and border security. I supported that bill, which passed in the Senate but sadly was never taken up in the House, although we all know there was enough support in the House to pass that legislation.

Senator McCain believed in working together to get things done. He listened and fought passionately for what he believed in, but he wanted to make sure we got things done in the best tradition of the Senate as the greatest deliberative body in the world. Senator McCain lived by that tradition.

In his memoir, Senator McCain said that his failure to enact comprehensive immigration reform was “a harder disappointment than other defeats.”

He continued:

We failed twice, and then once more after Ted had passed away, despite big majorities in both houses of Congress in favor of it. . . . I'd like to say I'll try again. But that is not up to me anymore. . . . That's a harder disappointment than other defeats have been because first, it's something that most Americans want, and most members of Congress know is the right thing to do.

He always called it the way he saw it. He showed his passion, but respected civility.

The Senate and the American people have lost in John McCain a man who was the very definition of service to his country. I will miss John terribly, and I hope all Americans will pause today to remember his legacy and admire his courage.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the life of Senator John McCain along with my colleagues.

John is an American icon whose legacy is known not only across our Nation but around the world. His belief in American exceptionalism was unwavering, and it propelled him to a lifelong service to our Nation.

Few have demonstrated John's level of commitment and service to our country. Through both, his bravery serving in the U.S. Navy and his long tenure in Congress, he demonstrated his deep love of country.

As the son and grandson of four-star admirals, John began serving this country at an early age. He followed in their footsteps and attended the U.S. Naval Academy and was later commissioned as a naval aviator.

He served in the Vietnam war, where he was captured and spent 5½ years as a prisoner of war. During those years, through torture and misery, he never gave up. He was offered freedom but refused to be released unless every other prisoner was released with him. Think about that. He was flying over Vietnam and was shot down. He was projected from his plane and landed in a lake in Hanoi. He was bruised, in terrible shape, put in a prison, and was clearly in incredible pain, and, through it all, he was offered an opportunity to go home early, and he said: Nope, I am not going unless all of the POWs go. Think of the strength and character that takes. It is almost unfathomable.

I always affectionately refer to him as an admiral because both his father and grandfather were full admirals. There is no doubt that Senator McCain would have been an admiral had he stayed in the Navy, as well. It was just the way that I could recognize his amazing service in a fun way and in a personal way. Here is somebody, when you talk about serving our country in the military, who just epitomizes that grit, that determination, that character, and that service that we love, respect, and honor so much in our servicemen and servicewomen.

John's perseverance followed him as he began serving our Nation as a Member of Congress and in the U.S. Senate. He fought fiercely for what he believed in. Everyone talks about how, when he took a position, he took it with a passion. So whenever you debated him, discussed things with him, and worked with him—whether you were on the same side or if you disagreed with him—he had that amazing passion that came through, and many have remarked on it. It was a remarkable trait. It is part of that warrior in him.

For the entirety of his life, John endlessly advocated for our men and women in uniform. He served, and he served them throughout his life in the Senate. Working with him to support our servicemembers and veterans is something that I will never forget.

What many people will not know about John, though, is his warmth as a friend. You know, you hear about his temper. He could be mercurial. Although, then he would get over it, and you would be right back working again.

You heard about his incredible energy, about his war record, his time as a POW, the things he did as a Senator, but one thing that I think you don't hear as often but that was very much true is that he had a tremendous, tremendous sense of humor, and that came through so often in his interviews.

He was also a warm person. I can remember when somebody would come to

my office and want to meet Senator McCain. If it worked out timewise, I would take them over, and we would go over to Senator McCain's office. I would say: Hey, I have somebody here who would just like to say hi to John, get his picture and meet him.

If he was there, almost every time he would bring them in. It wasn't a case of getting enough time or getting a quick picture, or something like that. Invariably, he would have them come in, sit down, talk with him, and take pictures, and pretty soon he would be taking them all around his office and showing them pictures of his family—he was so proud of his family, his grandfather, his father—and his mementoes, all the amazing things that made up his amazing life. He loved it, and he was so warm.

There are so many things that I will never forget, but that is one that I truly treasure and will always remember. Here is Senator McCain, somebody who is known across America, around the world. He was certainly an icon and a colleague, obviously, to all of us, but he was somebody who really was a friend. When you went over and you wanted to talk to him about something or take someone over to see him, or whatever it was, he was a friend. He was somebody who was down-to-earth, who was a person you could connect with at a real level. That is pretty amazing for somebody who lived such an incredible life.

We will miss John McCain. May God bless him. From my wife Mikey and myself, to John's wife Cindy and the entire McCain family, we join with you in mourning his loss and honoring his tremendous memory and legacy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I rise on behalf of the 152,000 Montanans whose healthcare coverage is currently in jeopardy.

Next week, a Texas courthouse will become the newest battlefield in the war against our healthcare. The latest attack is a lawsuit attempting to get rid of legal protections for folks with preexisting conditions. These are protections that make it illegal for insurance companies to deny healthcare coverage or charge absurd rates because of common conditions like high blood pressure or diabetes or heart disease or cancer or even pregnancy.

These protections were signed into law almost 10 years ago, passed by majorities in both the House and in the Senate. Despite many attempts to undermine them, they have been upheld by the Supreme Court and continue to be supported by Members of both parties in Congress. That is because an overwhelming majority—more than three-fourths—of Americans support these protections. In fact, the Kaiser Family Foundation recently reported